

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH
WASHINGTON

AUG 14 1961

TOP SECRET

Dear Mr. Dulles:

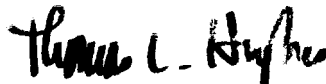
Our Department is currently reexamining various aspects of US Far Eastern policies. The intelligence community would make a substantial contribution to this review if it were to undertake an estimate of Sino-Soviet Bloc and Free World reactions to US initiation of the use of nuclear weapons in response to an act of communist aggression in Asia. You will recall that the Intelligence Board completed a similar estimate in 1958. An up-to-date estimate reflecting changed circumstances would be most useful if it were to be available within two months' time.

The estimate should examine the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons in three situations: Korea, the Offshore Islands, and Laos. In each case, it would be assumed that nuclear weapons were used by the United States against an unequivocal, large-scale, conventional attack by communist forces. Alternative assumptions concerning the geographic scope of the United States nuclear strikes should be examined. The estimate should consider the probable Chinese Communist and Soviet reactions, including the likelihood of a communist nuclear counter-blow, Japanese reactions including those relating to United States ability further to use Japanese bases, and other world reactions.

I suggest that the estimate's terms of reference also reflect the 1960 interdepartmental contingency study "U. S. and Allied Capabilities for Limited Military Operations to 1 July 1962."

Could we take up this matter at our next meeting of the Intelligence Board?

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Hughes
Acting

The Honorable,
Allen Dulles,
Chairman, United States Intelligence Board.

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Mr. Carl W. Strom, Director
Foreign Service Institute
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Strom:

Mr. Dulles has asked me to reply to your letter of August 1, 1961, inviting the Agency to participate in the twenty-fifth Mid-Career Course on Foreign Affairs scheduled to begin September 23, 1961.

We are happy to accept this invitation and will furnish the Registrar of the Institute the biographic information on our nominee prior to August 28, 1961.

Sincerely,

FATIMEN BAIRD
Director of Training

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